

BARRE GAZETTE

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Finance committee meets with school, RRECC

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – The Barre Finance Committee meet with the communications director of Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center (RRECC) and school officials to discuss their budgets for Fiscal Year 2021.

Michael Moriarty, director of communications for RRECC, said the regional assessments were about \$670,000 less than last year.

He said that part of the reduction was due to the town of Warren joining Rutland, Barre, Hubbardston and Oakham and increasing the call volume, which raised revenues. The center also received over \$452,000 in grant awards. He said a development grant, new for fiscal 2020, covered his salary and a Warren radio study. Other grants the center applied for yearly were support and incentive, wireless direct and training. He said wages increased 12 percent due to collective bargaining. He level funded supplies and uniforms.

Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD) Superintendent Dr. Sheila Muir said, “[I] don’t have good news Mike (Michael Moriarty of the RRECC) had.” Superintendent Muir said 50 percent of the school budget was state funded. She said since the only figure from the state was the governor’s budget released in January before the coronavirus. The state most likely would not have house and senate budgets before the end of the fiscal budget June 30.

Dr. Muir said at the school budget hearing March 12 the QRSD Committee reduced its budget from 5.3 percent to 3.2 percent. She said, “FY21 was built on the school back then (before COVID-19).” She said the department of education hired a consulting firm to work on a plan for reopening schools. She said the information changes rapidly and the school district will know the plan by the end of June.

Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, said until the district knows its revenue stream or costs related to school reopening in the fall, it was not prudent to make rash decisions. The school hoped to use about one million in school choice revenue for FY 21. If the state reduced school aid by 10 percent in its budget, the district would need the school choice money to cover the lost revenue in state aid.

The superintendent said most likely school in the fall would include a hybrid of face to face learning with social distancing and remote learning. She said the window of time was very short to implement a plan for school opening. She also said not all parents may send their child to school this fall and opt for remote learning only.

Muir said, “[I] realize incredibly difficult for you.” She said, “Either the state was going to destroy public education as know it or will have to help us.” She also said

See FINANCE COMMITTEE, page 5

Bear visits Oakham yard



Turley Publications Photo Courtesy of Barbara Kempksi

An Oakham resident had a bear in her yard. She was glad she didn’t have her bird feeders out. The bear stood up and rubbed his back on the birch tree. The last time she saw a bear do this she thought it was to get a good back scratching, but now she think he does it to mark his territory.

Plans to reopen town discussed

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

HUBBARDSTON – Town Administrator, Ryan McLane, said he’s seen comments on social media to please open things up. He said, “The goal is to open, not to stay closed.”

He told the select board at the May 26 meeting, that phase 2 would begin June 8. He said during phase 2 appointments at town offices would be permitted for things not able to be done remotely or by phone. Phase 3 (June 29) would have limited office hours for town buildings and phase 4 (July 20) would have even more hours. The dates are tentative dates only. He said employees would still work remotely from home and stagger hours. He said there would be no public access allowed until the installation of plexi-glass panels in all offices.

The town administrator said the senior center would be the last public space to open. He said the library could begin curbside services June 8 and it was under the jurisdiction of the library trustees. Interim library director, Christine Barbera, said the Hubbardston library was waiting until the larger libraries opened. The Hubbardston

See HUBBARDSTON, page 5

Barre election has two contests

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – The annual town election will be held Tuesday, June 23. Selectmen rescheduled the election from Monday, April 6 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are two contests on the ballot – a three-year term on the board of health and a five-year term on the planning board. Candidates for one position on the board of health include Karen Keegan, 168 Main St., South Barre and Anthony F. Mobilio, 414 North Brookfield Road, Barre. Candidates for the one position on the planning board for a five-year term are Elisha S. Musgraves, 920 Williamsville Road and Ralph Halliwell Rogers III, 549 Springhill Road. All other candidates on the ballot are unopposed.

The board of health and planning board candidates submitted statements for the Barre Gazette. They are listed below.

Karen Keegan Candidate for Board of Health



My name is Karen Keegan and I am announcing my candidacy for a three-year term on the Barre Board of Health. I moved here four years ago to be closer to family and have enjoyed my time in the town. As a member on the Barre Board of Health, I would be non-biased and fair. Currently, I am an associate

member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, so I have first hand experience on a board. For over 35 years, I have worked at engineering and surveying firms throughout the state. I bring experience to the board through my many years of employment. I have a strong background in design and engineering of septic systems and Title V, DEP regulations and have presented projects to many boards across the Commonwealth. I currently work for Guaranteed Builders and Developers, Inc., a construction company, as an engineering coordinator handling all surveying and design tasks. My goal is to be an active member of the Board of Health and to participate and serve my community. I am very passionate about public health and protection of people and natural resources. I am looking forward to ensure protection of public health in town and implement and enforce the policies of the board.

Anthony Mobilio Candidate for Board of Health



My name is Anthony Mobilio. I am a candidate for a three-year term on the Board of Health. I would like to join the Board of Health not because there is a vacancy, but to make a difference. The residents and taxpayers deserve fair and honest representation for all concerns brought forward to the Board of Health within the limits of the law. It is also paramount that report-

ed violations are in fact violations and that they be investigated with fair and appropriate resolutions according to bylaw or code.

The town of Barre is still a rural and bucolic community overflowing with civic pride. If elected, I will respond with commitment and energy to any challenge. I will work with the current members of the board as a team. You can be confident that a vote cast for me at the polls or by mail will be represented. Thanks to all in advance and I appreciate you reading this.

Elisha Musgraves Candidate for Planning Board



My name is Elisha Musgraves and I am a resident and voter of the town of Barre. I am an environmental engineer and work for a consulting firm that does engineering design, regulatory work, planning, and permitting. I am also experienced in zoning and general bylaw interpretation and application, as I have worked as a peer reviewer for a wide variety of projects and communities.

I came to Barre to live as a homesteader and contribute to the rich natural resources we share as a community. So much of what makes this part of Worcester County special is the thriving agricultural and recreational resources available to residents, and what attracts people to move here. Unfortunately, many of the sur-

See ELECTION, page 6

Markey, Neal push for expanded rail service

By Peter Spotts
Correspondent

Expanded rail service for Chester and Palmer may find new support in Sen. Edward Markey’s, D-Mass., proposed “Brain Train” Act to authorize \$5 billion dollars annually for five years to invest in high-performance intercity passenger rail service.

Markey said during a video press conference on Friday, May 29, rail is needed to bring attention to the historically unconnected, or un-reconnected, communities. He didn’t rule out the possibility of adding stops in Chester and Palmer when asked which towns will get rail stops between Boston

and Pittsfield.

“We have a plan that would potentially go Boston, Framingham, Worcester, Palmer and Springfield out to Pittsfield. That would be how it would be envisioned right now,” Markey said. “I wouldn’t rule out other stops if they were deemed to be necessary.”

Westfield was also mentioned as being in the discussion. Ben Heckscher, cofounder of local advocate Trains in the Valley, noted that the more stops that are added, reduces train travel time. He also pointed out that Western Mass. is better connected to Connecticut and New York than Boston.

Markey strongly feels that

See TRAIN, page 6

Water Commission issues mandatory residential outdoor water restrictions

BARRE – Per the Water Management Act Withdrawal Permit, issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the water commissioners must enforce summer limits on water withdrawal to protect stream flow for aquatic life and ensure a sustainable drinking water supply.

Residential outdoor water use will be allowed on

Tuesdays and Thursdays only after 5 p.m. from now through Sept. 30.

The water commissioners encourage all its customers to be aware of the amount of water that is being used and to conserve and protect the valuable drinking water resources.

If people have any questions, they may contact 978-355-5013 or via email to dpw@townof-barre.com.

Barre deceased veterans remembered

BARRE - Every year at Memorial Day a member of the American Legion Barre Post 2 read the list of veterans from Barre that died during the year. The Memorial Day ceremony included a handful of American Legion and Auxiliary members due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deceased veterans were: Joseph V. Aliquo, Joseph E. Bolger, Robert W. Brewer, Gene M. Caranci, Earl L. Cooley, Albert Freeman, Richard A. Freeman, John Johnson, Emelda (Mary) Kettle, David LaCroix, David A. Mason, William B. Molloy Sr., Warren Nurmi, Louis Pannaccione, Arthur Pendleton, Benard Skrzypczak and Amerigo M. Simeone.

People may watch a video of the Memorial Day ceremony at the various veterans’ monuments in town. To watch, they should go to the town of Barre website, click on government, then board of selectmen.

On that page, they should click on the left side of the page toward the bottom “watch selectmen’s meetings” and then click on the Memorial Day program.



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BARRE  GAZETTE

\$33/Year | \$38 Out-of-State

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News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Food pantry holds distribution June 10

The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur Wednesday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursday, June 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. The Barre Food Pantry wants to continue to fulfill its mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the catastrophic spread of the novel COVID-19 to which no one has immunity. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. As in the late March, April and May distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, June 10 and 18 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

Farmers market

The Barre Farmers’ Market is Saturdays at 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common. The farmers’ market runs from May to October.

Town election June 23

The Barre Board of Selectmen voted to hold the annual town election Tuesday, June 23 at its April 21 meeting. Both precincts will be open and polling hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m

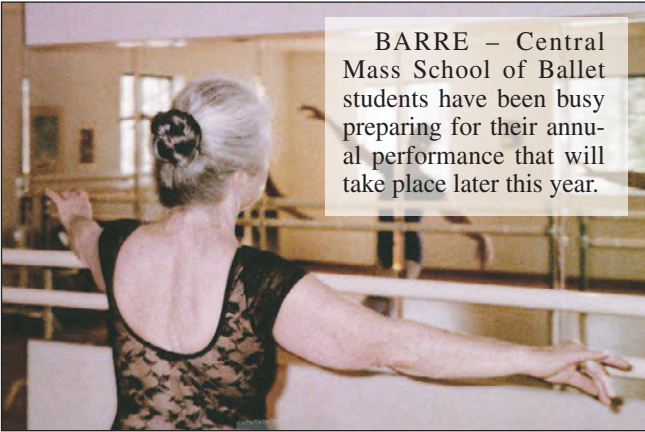
QRSD meal distribution days

The Quabbin Regional School District Food Service Department is distributing breakfast and lunch for all students in the district, age 18 and under. People do not have to attend a Quabbin school to participate. Distribution takes place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday while school is closed. Grab and Go breakfast and lunch will be distributed from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Hardwick Elementary School and the Quabbin Middle and High School. If parents have difficulty with transportation for food pickup, they may contact the Central Office at 978-355-4668 or email schoolmeals@qrzd.org.

SNAP assistance

Anyone recently laid off due to the coronavirus may call Eileen Clarkson, HS-BCP, CDP, MS, MPA, director of the Barre Senior Center at 774-764-8702 for assistance in applying for the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Ballet students prepare for recital



Kirsten Gill is shown rehearsing in front of the mirror.



Sharon Begley is in rehearsal.



Students in the classroom are shown from left, Sharon Begley, Sally Kleinfeldt and LeeAnn Jaquith.



Mikaela Begley is shown in the classroom.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



SHINE counselor counseling available

SHINE Medicare counseling with Glen Gregory will be available by scheduling an appointment with the Hubbardston Senior Center by calling 978-928-1400, extension 211. The counseling will be conducted by phone until further notice.

Town reopening plan

Town officials this week started the process of opening Hubbardston public spaces. This deliberate plan will balance following federal and state public health guidelines in addition to increasing the amount of resident services available to the Hubbardston public. This is an evolving plan and will closely mirror the state’s reopening guidance and timeline. This plan was created in consultation with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Town Administrator, Public Safety Officials, the Library Board of Trustees and the Parks Commission. This timeline is subject to change based on state guidance

Highlights of the plan include:

Parks - Town playground equipment will open to the public on June 8 with strict-social-distancing guidelines. The Parks Commission will also begin opening athletic courts and the skate park once state guidance allows beginning in Phase 2.

Town Offices - No public access to town offices until June 8 when town officials will begin to allow for public appointments. There will be limited office hours in Phase 3, June 29 and expanded public access in Phase 4, July 20.

Public Safety Offices - No public access until Phase 4 (appointments allowed in Phases 2 and 3).

Library - Curb-side pick-up services will begin in Phase 2 and in-person services will be delayed until phase 3. Actual dates will be determined by the Library Board of Trustees.

Senior Center will be closed to the public until Phase 4

The Town of Hubbardston continues to adhere to social-distancing guidelines, facemask use and limited public gatherings (less than 10 until further guidance is given). All openings are subject to change based on public health data and are contingent on continued following of social distancing guidelines.

Egg delivery time

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed for the time being. The time for egg delivery on Fridays changed to 10 a.m. to noon. There will be no fresh produce until further notice. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

Turtle count

The following people counted turtles in the May 28 Barre Gazette.
Barbara Kempinski counted 8 turtles.
James and Lizzie Laramee counted 6 turtles.
Laura McCarthy counted 8 turtles.
There were 7 turtles in the edition.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of June 8.

Meal sites are closed and only Meals on Wheels delivery.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Pork rib-i-que, mac ‘n cheese, green beans, fresh orange, sandwich roll

TUES. – Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, Tuscan style vegetables, lemon pudding, diet = sugar free tapioca, marble rye bread

WED. – Sloppy Joe, steak cut potato wedges, mixed vegetables, peaches, sandwich roll

THURS. – Chicken cacciatore, gemelli pasta, roasted broccoli, brownie, diet = half piece, Italian bread

FRI. – Fish with crumb topping, wild rice, country blend vegetables, fruited ambrosia, whole wheat bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: All meetings are closed to the public and will be held remotely.

BARRE

Barre Housing Authority – June 4 at 3 p.m.
Board of Health – June 8 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – June 8 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – June 8 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – June 9 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – June 9 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Committee – June 9 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – June 10 at 7 p.m.
Annual Town Election – June 23 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Annual Town Meeting – June 30 at 6:30 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – June 4 at 7 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – June 8 at 5:30 p.m. and July 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – June 8 and June 22, July 6 and July 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – June 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – June 11 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – June 12 at 4 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – June 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Recycling Commission – June 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – June 16 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Library Trustees – June 4 at 7 p.m.
Historical Commission – June 6 at 10 a.m.
Planning Board – June 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Center Committee – June 18 at 7 p.m.
Open Space Committee – June 30 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health – June 4 and June 18 at 7 p.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – June 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – June 11 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – June 18 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – June 25 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – Aug. 20 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Planning Board Public Hearing – June 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Annual Town Election – June 22

Counting Turtles Winners

The Register
Donna Dinelle
Randalls Farm & Greenhouse Gift Card

Wilbraham-Hampden Times
Vivian Busker
Rice's Fruit Farm Gift Card

The Sentinel
Celeste Chenier (Ludlow)
Randalls Farm & Greenhouse Gift Card

Quaboag Current
Adam Lauzon (Brookfield)
Dunkin Donuts Gift Card

Chicopee Register
Steve Curylo (Chicopee)
Rice's Fruit Farm Gift Card

Journal Register
Juliannah Greaney (Monson)
Rice's Fruit Farm Gift Card

Ware River News
Joanne Pluta (Hardwick)
Dunkin Donuts Gift Card

Barre Gazette
James & Lizzie Laramée
Dunkin Donuts Gift Card

Agawam Advertiser
Catherine Thies (Agawam)
Rice's Fruit Farm Gift Card

Country Journal

The Sun
Ed Trudeau
Dunkin Donuts Gift Card

Town Reminder
Melvin Dotson (Chicopee)
Dunkin Donuts Gift Card

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

MOC CFCE temporarily suspended playgroups and other family events until at least through May. Governor Baker declared a state of emergency hoping to contain the spread of the coronavirus across the Commonwealth. The Parent Child Plus program will continue to operate with your Early Learning Specialist continuing to visit with enrolled.

Massachusetts 4-H programs, activities and club meeting are cancelled until further notice. This includes advisory councils, fair boards, horse advisories and events. Groups are allowed to meet virtually.

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed until at least through June. The time for egg delivery on Fridays changed to 10 a.m. to noon. There will be no fresh produce until further notice. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

The Gardner Museum, following recommendations from local and state health officials and American Alliance of Museums guidelines in response to ongoing COVID-19 prevention measures, will be closed to the public effectively immediately until at least through June.

Stage on Main, 17 South Main St., Orange has suspended all events until at least through June as a precaution against COVID-19.

Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham will be closed to the public until at least through June 8. Library staff will be available to answer calls and assist with digital resources.

All Barre Town Buildings

will be closed at least until at least through June 8 to the public, except by appointment and include the Henry Woods Building, Woods Memorial Library, the Council on Aging (senior center), old Town Hall, the public safety building, fire stations and DPW. Please call an office before visiting in many cases staff is able to assist over the phone or by mail. Meals on Wheels program and wellness checks for seniors will continue.

The town of Hubbardston is closing all town buildings to the public until at least through June 8. Offices will continue to provide services of the government to residents. The closure will result in the delivery of services remotely. All public safety operations will continue.

East Quabbin Land Trust postponed its 19th annual dinner and silent auction to Saturday, Sept. 19.

EQLT rescheduled its accessible trail workday to June 21.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced the Quabbin Visitor's Center is closed to the public, though the property is accessible. Those accessing the property are reminded that vehicles must exit at the posted time.

The Grandview Tenants Association has changed their annual raffle and bazaar from the beginning of June to the beginning of October this year.

Theatre at the Mount's "Honky Tonk Angels" (June) has been officially cancelled and they will make a decision about their August production of "Newsies." It is too early to predict what will happen with the rest of the season

but they hope to resume normal operations as soon as it is safely possible. performances (June). For questions about tickets, people may contact box-office@mwcc.mass.edu. For other issues and concerns, please contact Professor Gail Steele at g_steele@mwcc.mass.edu.

Because the safety of auxiliary members is the major concern, all American Legion Post 2Auxiliary functions have been cancelled until further notice. Members will be kept informed as to when meetings will resume.

Wachusett Greenways events are cancelled through June 30. During this time the portable restrooms are removed from the Mass Central Rail Trail to protect from spreading the virus. Please greet others on the trail with a smile or wave as you pass at a good distance. Do not pass closely or draw near to people or pets on the trail.

Massachusetts Wildlife Management Areas are open, fishing is open and trout stocking will continue.

Bay State Equine Rescue (BSER) president Susan Sheridan announced the cancellation of the 5K Run Like the Dickens slated for July 12, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Historically, the race has been very well attended, but the safety and well-being of the runners, supporters and volunteers is the top priority. The race is held at Old Sturbridge Village.

Holden Days scheduled for Aug. 22 has been cancelled. It will return next year Aug. 28, 2021.

Sterling Fair scheduled for Sept. 11-13 has been cancelled. It will return in 2021.

Food pantry to hold distributions June 10 and 18

BARRE — The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur Wednesday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursday, June 18 from 5:30-7 p.m.

The Barre Food Pantry wants to continue to fulfill its mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the catastrophic spread of the novel COVID-19 to which no one has immunity. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions.

As in the late March, April and May distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, June 10 and 18 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east)

entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicles by volunteers.

Based on the success of the spring distributions so far, the Barre Food Pantry volunteers believe this "drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

Usually pantry volunteers and clients are able to greet each other with a smile.

With all the volunteers and many clients now wearing masks in public, the volunteers encourage everyone to wear a mask of some kind and hope that everyone will still hear the smiles in their voices.

While the pantry typically has had an "all hands on deck"

approach to welcoming volunteers, in June they will once again be working with just a very small crew.

They are preparing for the distribution by only working in shifts at the pantry, in small household/family groups.

Please do not arrive to volunteer on June 10 or 18 without first contacting Sonja Blaney, coordinator of volunteers, at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

The pantry sincerely appreciates all the volunteers who have stayed home; we know this is not easy for our dedicated volunteers to do.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website: <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Library offers curbside pickup

The Fobes Memorial Library is closed for now, but it currently offers curbside pickup Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. People may call the library at 508-882-3372 for a book or movie order. There are no interlibrary loan services currently so selections are limited to the library's collection.

Church services

Sunday, June 7 the Oakham Congregational Church will hold its 10 a.m. worship service. Weather permitting it will be held outside. People should bring their own chair and wear a mask. If it rains, services will be inside the church. People will be directed to an entrance and practice social distancing in the sanctuary.

Annual town meetings

The annual town meeting will be held Tuesday, June 30 at 7 p.m. at the municipal building, Barre Road. A special town meeting will be held at 6:45 p.m. prior to the annual town meeting at 7 p.m.

Volunteers

The board of selectmen currently seeks volunteers to serve on the board of health and finance committee. People interested should contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at 508-882-5549, extension 300 or email ashley.sturges@oakham-ma.gov.

Eyeing the intricate beauty of a dandelion



Turley Publications Photo by Dan Laukaitis

Dan Laukaitis of Barre took this photo of a dandelion. He said, "I never noticed how beautiful these were. A whole new experience and lawn folks want these dead."

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Opinion

Editorial

Enjoy free fishing weekend

This weekend, June 6 and 7 if free freshwater fishing weekend in Massachusetts. There is no need to have a fishing license on these two days, just a fishing pole, reel, a lure or bait.

Every year MassWildlife offers the free fishing weekend in hopes of getting more people to enjoy fishing or to encourage some former fishermen to return to a favorite fishing spot.

With people unable to participate in many activities due to the coronavirus pandemic, fishing is not one of them. Fishing is perfect activity for families with young, school age or teen children.

My father introduced me to fishing at an early age, three or four. When I was a child, fishing was not a year round sport. Opening day in the spring was a big day. My dad, my brother when he was old enough and I would get up before the sunrise. Dad always said the fish bite better early in the morning, when it rains or just before sunset.

My mother did not fish, but she made us a quick breakfast and packed us a lunch. She cooked any fish we caught for supper. However, my father always cleaned the fish as she found that an unpleasant task.

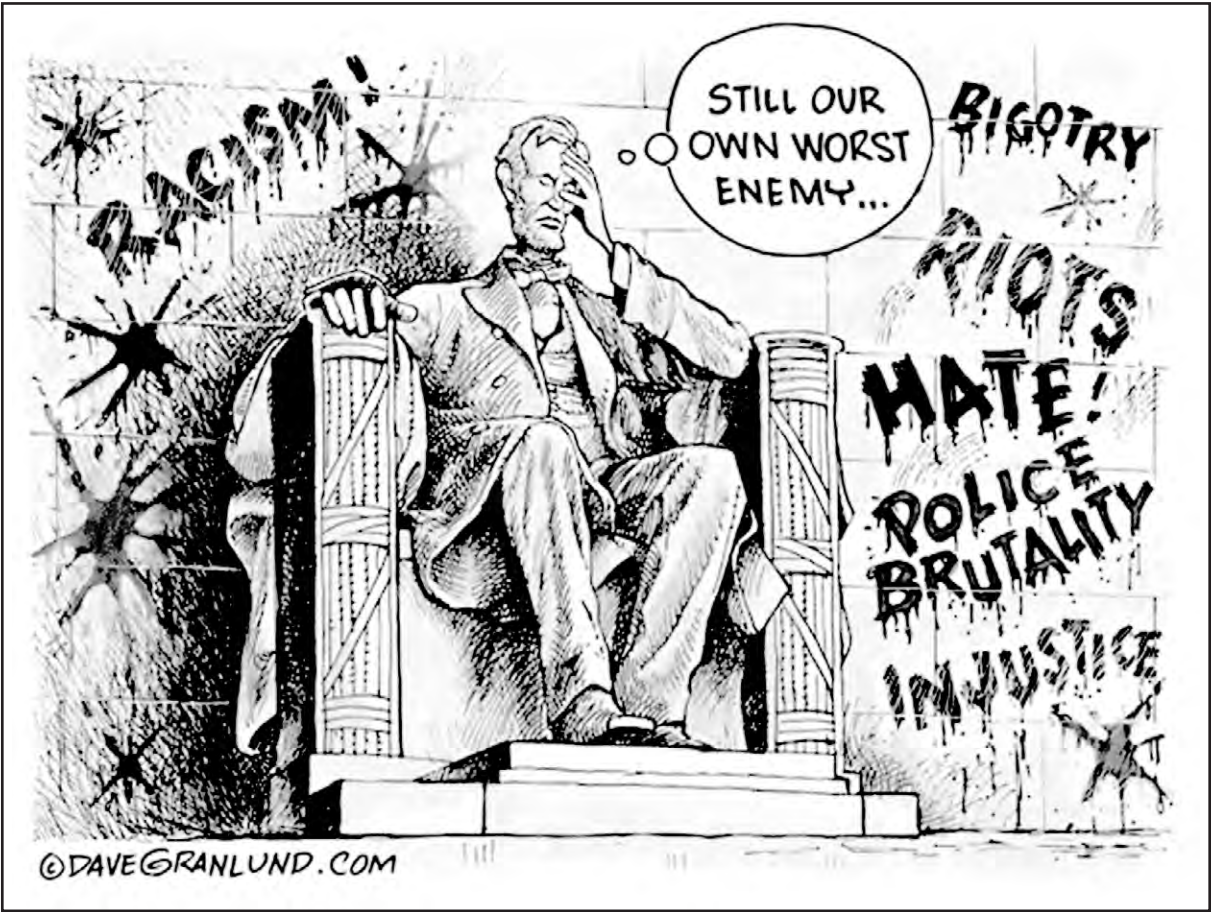
Sometimes my dad fried the fish outside in a cast iron skillet over a wood fire. He dipped them in milk, then rolled them in flour or corn meal. I still remember how good fresh fish tasted. My favorite pan fish were horn pout and perch. My dad’s favorite was brook trout or “brookies” as he called them.

His favorite fishing companion was his twin brother. In his “golden” years he got to fish more often. He had a few fishing buddies, younger than him as he lived for 94 years. He had a fly rod and hand tied flies made by an uncle.

Anyone looking for something to do this weekend should consider going fishing. There are fish just waiting to take your bait. MassWildlife stocked many rivers, lakes and ponds. It is not just the fishing, but the time spent outside listening to birds singing near the water. Maybe you will see a heron wading near shore doing the same thing as you – fishing. Who knows you may like fishing so much that you will purchase a fishing license so you can go fishing anytime.



Ellenor Downer



5 years ago (June 4, 2015)

These are exciting times for the Quabbin Composting and Organic Gardening Program. In January, Hannah Traggis began her transition as director of the program under the guidance of founder, Karen DiFranza, who continues to administer the program. Traggis, who is also educational director at the Mass. Horticultural Society, is a Hubbardston resident. Last week, the program received the Green Difference Award at the State House for its environmental work over the past seven years. Senator Anne Gobi and Representative Donnie Berthiaume attended the ceremony. Quabbin senior, Sophia Kornitsky also received a Green Difference Award. Kornitsky has been a member of the program since her freshman year and has been active in the composting, gardening and outreach aspects of the program. This winter she presented a keynote address along with Senator Jamie Eldridge at the Green Schools Summit in Boston. Kornitsky will attend Wellesley College in the fall.

A large group attended the bridge dedication on May 23 in memory of Basil D. Izzi, long-time Barre resident and United States Navy Seaman Second Class. During World War II Izzi spent 83 days on a raft in the South Atlantic after his ship was torpedoed. He was one of three survivors. Relatives Kenneth Izzi and Domenica (Izzi) DeSantis attended the dedications and they along with long time friend, Dolly Thorng, unveiled the sign that read S2/C Basil D. Izzi Memorial Bridge. Guest speakers included State Sen. Anne D. Gobi (D-Spencer) and retired state Sen. Stephen M. Brewer, who co-sponsored Senate Bill S-2043, authorizing the naming of the bridge in South Barre as a memorial to Basil and State Rep. Donald Berthiaume Jr. (R-Spencer), a U.S. Navy veteran. Participants included Barre Post 2 American Legion Commander Charles Fullam, Father James Callahan of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Joyce Porter, who sang the National Anthem, Joseph Orszulak, who played “Taps,” Barre Post 2 American Legion Color Guard and Firing Squad and Quabbin Regional High School NJROTC cadets. Kenneth Izzi gave the closing sentiments.

Tiana Morin, a junior at Quabbin Regional High School has been selected to play field hockey in the National Futures Championship this June. Only the top 12 percent of Athletes in the Futures Program will have the opportunity to compete. There will be approximately 680 of the nation’s best athletes that will showcase their talents in front of the USA Field Hockey selection committee. The Futures Program is dedicated to developing the top athletes in each region, identifying the most talented athletes in the nation and cultivating the Olympic athletes of tomorrow.

10 years ago (June 10, 2010)

The Town of Barre Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) will be posting “Do Not Enter” signs at

LOOK BACK
Quabbin Graduation
1995



Turley Publications File Photo
Heather Ericson and Danielle Lizotte talk of memories at Quabbin.

the James Street Extension and Summer Street intersections within the next few weeks. These signs will be limiting the traffic from entering James Street Extension from Summer Street (Rte. 122). Traffic will not be allowed to enter James Street Extension to access Valley Road or Old Coldbrook Road.

While Quabbin Cadets gathered for the beginning of Memorial Day festivities in Hubbardston, Captain Brennock and Cadet Company Commander Ensign Nick Doherty promoted a number of cadets. Promoted to Cadet Petty Officer Third Class were Cadets Brianne Dunham, Kayla Pignataro, Alec Dorval, Adrienne Wade, Matthew Favreau, Matthew Her, Victoria Seitz, Mitchell Fumire, Tara Chiasson and Sharra Miller. Promoted to Cadet Petty Officer Second Class were Amanda Rivard, Alex Klose and Jacqueline Smith. Promoted to Cadet Petty Officer First Class was Travis Buzzell.

On June 1, Matthew M. Daigle was promoted to the rank of Captain in the United States Army. Captain Daigle is a class of 2003 graduate of Quabbin Regional High School in Barre and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Endicott College in Beverly. Upon graduating from Endicott College in 2007, he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Captain Daigle has been stationed at Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany since December 2007 in the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. He is currently serving as an Intelligence Officer in the Regiment. Captain Daigle has previously deployed to Iraq in 2008 and will be deploying for his second combat tour to Afghanistan in mid-June 2010. Captain Daigle is the son of Scott and Dawn Daigle of Barre.

25 years ago (June 8, 1995)

Donald Spencer Smith of Hubbardston Road, Barre, and his wife Bertyne Rice Smith, spend last weekend at Middletown, Conn. attending his 45th class reunion at Wesleyan University. Smith graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in general scholarship and distinction in American studies. His thesis was

“A History of the First Hundred Years of Museums in American, 1773-1873.” Smith went on from college to spend 41 years in the museum profession. “A highlight of the reunion weekend for me,” Smith said, “was the traditional Alumni Sing on the steps of Old North College. Singing the old songs brought back such wonderful memories.”

The awards for the poppy poster contest sponsored annually by the Petersham American Legion Auxiliary were noted in last week’s Memorial Day review, but not the recipients. The unit wishes to acknowledge these creative young people: grade four, Tonya Lanpher, Lee Andriski and Amanda Duguay; grade five, Michelle O’Leary, Samantha Mazza and a tie for third, Jennifer Degnan and Elisha Thibault; grade six, tie for first, Philip Myers and Danielle Belsito; tie for second, Mary Jenkins and Amie Waid with John Costa, third. The posters were later taken to the Worcester County Council meeting of the ALA and judged on standards established by the national organization. Fourth and fifth graders are treated as one division with Tonya and Amanda placing first and second. In the sixth grade, Phillip, Danielle and Mary were judged first, second and third.

Twenty-eight children participated in the Oakham Fishing Derby on June 4. The following won prizes: Nick Dittami, largest fish, bass; Chris Houghton, largest fish, catfish; Zach Boutin, smallest fish; Zach Boutin, most fish; Norman Provost, first place, 9 and under; Greg Kirber, second place, 9 and under; Richie Hennessey, third place, 9 and under; first place Zach Boutin 10 to 15 years; Pat Carey, second place 10 to 15 years; and Nick Dittami, third place 10 to 15 years. Door prize winners were Greg Kirber, Deanna Houghton, Chris Houghton, David Sansoucy, Tim Carroll, Adam Metterville, Brandon Reilly, and Sam Cask.

38 years ago (June 9, 1982)

The Thursday afternoon bowling group from the Barre and Rutland Nutrition Sites ended up the season with a banquet at Caruso’s Rustic Lounge. A social hour and dinner were enjoyed by 47 bowlers and friends and trophies were presented to several participants by Dominic Tomasello. Those receiving awards were Norman Gallant, John Rosselli, Anna Neal, Esther Bacon, Bill Richards, Anna Hoffman and Frank Marconi.

Recent graduates from area colleges included several local residents. From Worcester State College graduates included William J. Gelinas, Susan E. Harty, Timothy J. Mara, all of Barre, and Nancy M. Cappuccio of Hubbardston. Fitchburg State College graduates included: Lynn M. Perkins of Barre and Cynthia L. Cote and Jeffrey P. Ledge, both of Hubbardston.

Weekend events for everyone were certainly dampened by the weather but Beard’s Fifth Annual Five Mile Road Race got off to

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Keep a constant supply of bush beans coming

Bush beans are a good example of a vegetable that works well as a succession crop. What that means is that they can be sown multiple times throughout the summer. Why? Because unlike most other vegetables, beans produce less than eight weeks from sowing, are not finicky about heat and as long as you have full sun and average garden soil, they can be grown with relative ease. Consider making additional sowings of this versatile vegetable now before you get busy with the harvest. That way you can enjoy a continuous supply all summer long.

You might still refer to snap or bush beans as “string beans” even though the tough strings that connected the two halves of the pod were bred out of the snap bean beginning in 1884 with Calvin N. Keeney’s introduction of the stringless refugee wax bean. Today’s modern stringless beans are a result of those early breeding efforts.

All types of beans require warm soil in which to germinate; 60 degrees at least, hence the few plants from that early sowing. My sowing on Memorial Day is just starting to poke through the soil. Did you know that white-seeded varieties are especially picky about soil temperatures? Black and tan seeds regulate moisture intake more effectively, and therefore are less likely to rot in cool, wet soils. If you want to gamble with an early sowing, sow these instead. Usually by May 20, the ground is warm enough to sow all types of beans. Succession plantings can be made every 10 days through July 30. After that it is unlikely that plants will produce a viable crop before frost hits.

Rather than sowing bean seeds in rows, I make good use of garden space by planting them in a four-foot wide block. Anything wider than four feet would make it difficult to reach in among the plants to harvest. If soil has been turned over or rototilled first it is easy to simply place the bean seeds on top of the soil four inches apart and push them into the ground with your index finger, up to the first knuckle. Pat the surface of the soil with your palm to firm, and water well. Germination will take place in a week to 10 days.

It is good practice not to work among the plants after a rainstorm or in the early morning when dew is present. Touching wet foliage can encourage diseases and spread them from plant to plant. When the foliage is dry you will want to be on the look out for the Mexican bean beetle. A bit larger than ladybugs, and all brown, these pests and their fuzzy yellow larvae can decimate a stand of bean plants. Vigilance is the key. If squashing bugs isn’t for you, dropping them into soapy water will also do them in. Try planting marigolds nearby to deter them. I have also found through experience that subsequent sowings are best sited away from one another. It will take the beetles a longer time to find the new plants than if they are planted side by side.

Harvest beans when they are still relatively thin. Depending on the variety, pods can average five to seven inches long at maturity. When inner seeds start to swell and fatten up the bean they aren’t nearly as tasty. As mentioned, bumper crops are possible, and sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with the harvest. One variety known especially for its holding power is Jade. Beans from this variety retain a deep green color and sport thin pods. I have also enjoyed growing French beans “Haricot Verts” because they are very long and thin, never tough.

Fresh beans are easy to freeze. Blanch in boiling water for three minutes then plunge into ice water until cooled. Air-dry thoroughly, pack in plastic bags, and place in the freezer.

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IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Wow, this has been a hot and humid week and things in the garden really grew. The blossoms on the crab apple tree did not last long, but the lilacs are in full blossom.

The bug population loved the muggy weather so I didn't do much except run out and water the potted plants. I now have all my houseplants outside so that is a help in not having to water them inside. I did keep my orchid plants in the east window as they do so well there. One of the orchids that bloomed for a year is now producing more buds and blooms. They really like it in that east window. I have three orchids, two white and one pink. I plan to get more when and if I can go to a garden center.

I try to make meals with ingredients I have on hand or items I get from the senior center grocery bags. Since we get apples, walnuts and eggs each week, this recipe would be good for those seniors, who get the groceries. It is an easy dessert.

APPLE PUDDING

1 egg, beaten slightly
3/4 cup sugar
5 tablespoons flour
1 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup finely cut raw apple, pared and peeled

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Add sugar gradually to beaten egg. Sift dry ingredients. Mix with spoon and add vanilla. Stir in apples and nuts. Bake in greased pie plate until brown and firm to the touch, for about 30 to 45 minutes in 350 degree oven. You may serve with ice cream, if desired.

This and That

I had purchased two quarts of strawberries this week and planned to make a strawberry rhubarb pie, but I didn't have enough rhubarb to pick so I made this dessert instead.

STRAWBERRY PUDDING PIE

Pie shell
Double package of vanilla pudding
3 cup milk
Half quart strawberries
Sugar

Take a pie shell and bake it for about 25 minutes. Mix a double package of vanilla pudding with the 3 cups milk. Slice up a half quart of strawberries which you sugar. Place strawberries in the cooled pie shell and place the pudding over the top. Refrigerate it and serve it with whipped topping or ice cream or just plain. I had left over strawberries and pudding so I made two dessert dishes with the mixture for another dessert.

A friend brought me some elastic so I can make some more face masks. I think we will be wear-

ing them for a while. Most stores and businesses require that you wear them. I heard on television that barbers and hair salons require them and they will not do waxing or beard trimming because of this. I have been trimming my own hair and am not ready to wander out yet.

Each day to keep busy I plan a couple of projects. This week one morning I took out all the summer clothes and packed away the winter things. Another day I did some filing in the notebooks from the pile of articles I had saved during the winter. I have notebooks for all kinds of subjects and keep them in the garage on shelves that my husband made for me. Subjects include antiques, quilting, etc.

I was sorry to read of the passing of a former resident, Arnold Kenda, age 87, of Southbridge, who passed away May 22. He used to work for his brother-in-law, Maitland Hill, in the poultry business.

Each day I try to call a senior citizen to check on them. Most are staying safe and wearing masks if they do go out. It disturbs me when I see the people on television that are not obeying the rules. This will never end if they don't reform. Please obey the rules especially in concern for the elderly.

Have a good week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

once the school knows the basic parameters, then it could plan. If allowed only 50 percent of students in school, could plan.

The finance committee voted to hold its Zoom public budget hearing Thursday, June 25. The select-

men set the annual town meeting for Tuesday, June 30.

Claire Adomaitis, chair of the finance committee, said since the finance committee did not have the numbers, town meeting should not be held in June. The committee voted to recommend to the board of selectmen that they not hold the annual town meeting in June.

The committee voted to replace the ambulance and cruiser. They will meet with the town clerk at its Thursday, June 4 meeting. Finance committee member, Brian Inman, said he wanted it on record that interim town administrator Heather Munroe has done a great job and he hoped she would be named permanent town administrator.

HUBBARDSTON, continued from page 1

library looked at opening in some capacity by mid-June or later. The earliest the playground could open would be June 8. The parks department might allow tennis then as well.

Hubbardston Fair

Katie Young discussed the Hubbardston Fair with selectmen via the Zoom meeting. She said the fair is an important event in town and she hoped to offer a scaled back version of the event. She said plans were on hold until the event gets a go ahead. Measures in the plan included shorter hours, no face painting or bounce house, food trucks offering quick food choices.

Finance committee

The finance committee met with

the select board to discuss the budget. If the town holds town meeting on June 23 as planned, the budget should be a balanced budget. It could be rectified at a special town meeting in the fall. If the school uses the \$1 million in its school choice funds to lower town assessments, Hubbardston's number would be 2.5 percent. Town administrator said the town could use free cash and more reserves. He said the school might not have a final budget until summer. The town definitely would have to hold a fall town meeting to fix its budget. The town administrator would be filing a 1/12-budget notification in case something happens with town meeting.

Infrastructure updates

The town center project is on

tap for 2022. Work began on Evergreen Bridge Road; it will be closed for about 1½ years with a detour. Route 62 begins next month and would also require a detour. Tree work was done on Route 68 and drainage work would start this week. The project has to be completed by October.

Public comment

Ralene Williams of Rietta Flea Market asked where the flea market fell in the process. She said the state did not address flea markets. She reached out to Sen. Anne Gobi for guidance. She hoped to have information by June 8 from Gobi's office. Williams said she outlined a preliminary plan for procedures when the flea market is allowed to open.

Looking through the window

By Carole Gariepy

How do you visit a loved one who is in a shut-down facility such as a nursing home, hospital, or group home? You know the "stay-out" policy is for their own safety so virus germs cannot be brought in, and you certainly don't want to be the cause of bringing COVID 19 to someone who probably already has a weakened health system. But you love them and they love you, and loneliness has already become a part of their lives when they had to leave home and go to a care facility when adequate care could no longer be managed at home.

Gerry and I were facing that situation with our special needs son Grant who is 56 and has lived in a group home for past 25 years. He is confined to a wheelchair and had been transported to the excellent day program at GAMMHA that is filled with stimulating activities he enjoyed. He has a TV in his room so he can watch his favorite DVD's. He strings beads to make necklaces for his friends and relatives, and his beading even serves a missionary outreach when Pastor Stephanie Flynn asks him to make necklaces to cheer up women who are grieving or having a problem. He uses the telephone to call home and talk to family and call some old friends. We visited him at his group home weekly and a staff person at the home brought him to a nearby restaurant so we could enjoy a meal with him, and often some friends would join us for the meal and fellowship. Grant had a full schedule and was very happy. And, as the saying goes, "A mother is about as happy as her least happy child." I was happy that he had made such a good adjustment.

It's hard to face the fact that it's time to put your child in a group home. You feel guilt, selfish, inadequate, like you're giving up on a person. Even though Grant was in his 30's, the best way I can describe the feeling for me would be like sending a kindergartener off to college. Like a kindergartener, the special needs child is never grown up enough and ready to leave home, not like high school graduates who can't wait to leave and be on their own, although they often do feel homesick after they do leave.

I'm sure it has to feel the same way when it becomes time to put a parent or spouse in a care home. It's not an easy decision and takes mental preparation and adjustment on both sides. Change is one thing that comes to all of us from time to time in our lives.

A big change came with the virus, a change that presented most



Turley Publications Submitted Photo
Grant Gariepy shows his parents the card his cousin sent him.

everyone in the world with new challenges. How to bring some diversity to Grant's life was one of our challenges. His day program closed, and not only was he confined to his wheelchair, he was confined to his group home and most of the time in his room. I'm not sure he realizes the impact the virus had on the world but he sure knows it's had an impact on him. All the activities he loved came to an abrupt stop. He calls it the Terrible Virus. Then Gerry and I thought ... Grant lives in a one-story house and his window is low enough for us to look into. Let's visit him from outside through the window. And that's what we've done.

Once you accept a situation and find a solution for working with it, you can begin to find ways to make the new method fulfilling. At first, our window visits were pretty much the same as our telephone conversations, but then we added some creativity, and started to do a show-and-tell kind of visit. He held up thank you letters he received from women he made necklaces for and we talked about those people and their lives, and how much joy his necklaces brought to them, reflections that made him feel good about his hobby that he had more time to work on during this confinement. He also showed us a picture of flowers he painted. We admired it and asked if we could bring it home to display; he was pleased that we wanted it and the staff person put it outside for us to take. We talked about difficulties the virus was making in our lives -- my hair, that I couldn't go to Monique's to have it cut, that it was getting so long and straggly that I asked Dad to cut it because he was the

only one I could be near. I showed Grant how Dad cut it longer on one side than the other and needed to work on it some more; we talked about this being his first haircut so it would take some practice to get it right, how every new job takes a lot of time and practice to get it right. At another visit, we talked about the dentist office being closed. I showed him my broken tooth ... right in the front. I told him the dentist will be able to fix it but for now it was a good thing nobody could see me. It's good to talk to someone on the telephone but even better if you're able to have the visit in person. The window visits were a good solution, and to further upgrade the visits, Gerry brought Windex and cleaned the outside of the window.

I saw a newspaper photo of someone who had a unique idea for having a window visit with a hospital patient on the third floor! An arrangement was made with a contractor who had a bucket truck and the visitor was elevated to the patient's window for an important in-person visit. I'm sure glad Grant is not on an upper story because I wouldn't have the courage to ride in a bucket although it may not be any more scary than a ferris wheel ride. Anyway, not many of us have access to a bucket truck, but it is an inspiration to see ways people have found to meet important needs. Facetime and zoom have been the answer for many of us to have opportunities to see as well as talk with people. Grant can't do that advanced technology so the window visits have been the perfect answer for him.

The telephone is his connection with the outside world. He calls us every day and Gerry and I search for things to talk about. What do you talk about when you don't have your normal active life and the only news you hear about is the virus? We tell him the news we get from telephone calls and emails, news that mostly revolves around the virus, but the most enjoyable conversations for him and for us are nostalgia topics. We reminisce about people and activities from the past. I remember back years ago when my aunt was in the nursing home, the conversation that brought her the most joy was talking with her about the good old days, and I heard interesting family stories that happened before my time. It's important to keep up with current news, but reminiscing is a good remedy for stress about a difficult situation that is beyond our control. It removes us from the present crisis for a while and that is healthy.

Have Something to Share? Send your stories & photos to edowner@turley.com

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

a good start right on time. Jim Murphy, winner of last year's race with a time of 24:44 beat his own record and the course record set in 1979 by Barre's Lou Panaccione at 24:40 with this year's outstanding time of 24 minutes, 21 seconds. Jim, who is a member of Central Mass Striders has won the last 42 of the 47 races he has run. Don Drewniak, race director of Central Mass Striders, who helped organize Saturday's race, said that Jim Murphy is Worcester County's best runner. Another CMS runner came in to take second place and his name is Dennis MacCallum from Rutland with a time of 26:07. Jeff Lee of the Sugarloaf Mountain Club claimed the third spot coming in 16 seconds after MacCallum with a time of 26:23. The first three in the Women's New England Athletics Congress Five Mile Race which was run at 6:10 p.m., 20 minutes before the open competition, were Jane Welzel, 27:47, Linda Adams, 30:01, and Rita Doherty with a time of 30:53. Linda and Rita, both from Amherst, run for Sugarloaf Mountain Club. Barre has its own contingent of runners and the first Barre female to finish the women's race was Tammy Banks. Two weeks short of her 12th birthday, this was Tammy's first race. She placed 13th overall with a time of 37:44. In the Open Race another young competitor, Patrick Brandon, 15 years old, was the first Barre Junior division runner (19 or younger) to finish with a time of 27:24. Pat beat his last year's time of 28:55 and was in 11th place overall. In another division, the open, which includes those 20-39 years of age, Jim VanWert was the first Barre runner across the line. Jim bettered his time this year by over 2 minutes with an even 34-minute race. He placed 88th overall. Hubbardston Richard Lyon was second in the senior division (50 and above) with a time of 32:56, placing 78th overall.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

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Where is this?



This week’s mystery photo is from Petersham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, June 8. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Dick Clark, Stephen Craven and Barbara Kempiski correctly identified last week’s photo. Last week’s photo was of the Fobes Memorial Library, Maple Street, in Oakham.

TRAIN, continued from page 1

rail investment is one of the ways to combat climate change and boost economic recovery following COVID-19, and connecting the eastern and western parts of the state, and beyond.

“Despite clear economic, environmental, and safety benefits, Congress has insufficiently invested in expanding passenger rail,” Markey said. “Developing and restoring passenger rail service, especially in communities

that have been under connected, is exactly the kind of recovery program that can help repair the economic damage caused by the coronavirus while correcting long-standing inequities.”

“Now is the time to take the pressure off of our highway system,” added Congressman Richard Neal. “We can do this with renewable energy in mind. We can make this very green friendly and also remind people, as we go forward with rail, the rest of the world already does this, and they’ve embraced it

enthusiastically. It’s a very efficient way to travel.”

Application for the competitive grant funding created by the “Brain Train” Act would be evaluated based on the levels of estimated ridership, increased on-time performance, reduced trip time, or additional rail service frequency; the anticipated provision of passenger rail service in regions that are historically and persistently unconnected or under-connected; and the anticipated favorable impact on air or traffic congestion and safe-

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Horse chestnut tree displays blooms



This pink horse chestnut tree is in full bloom in the yard of Maryann and Paul Jackson in Barre.

It also directs DOT to give greater preference to projects that encourage direct connection between multiple modes of transportation — train and transit stations, bus terminals, subway stations, ferry ports, and more; improve conventional intercity passenger, freight or commuter rail operations; provide environmental benefits, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and public health, provide positive economic and employment impacts, and provide enhanced transportation options for persons with disabilities.

Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyler spoke at the conference as well, noting her city has often felt disconnected from the rest of the state, and is excited about new opportunities expanded rail could have for the city.

“The ability to get on a train

and quickly get to Springfield, Worcester or Boston is something many people in our city have dreamed about for a very long time,” Tyler said.

Markey confirmed this would not be an allocation of existing funds, but brand new funds, a new infrastructure bill and new passenger rail projects in Western Massachusetts and across the country. Details such as the construction of new tracks and where stops would be are left to the individual projects to plan. Markey said any form of hearings on the legislation will be a part of the process, which is dependent on when the next coronavirus relief package is finalized by Congress.

“Once we begin the discussion on an infrastructure bill, then this will be part of that discussion,” he said.

ELECTION, continued from page 1

rounding towns are losing their “classic New England feel” to over-development and poor planning.

When I first moved to Barre, I was inspired to join the Conservation Commission. I felt that my technical knowledge would be key in helping the government of Barre appropriately protect necessary wetlands, floodplains, and streams that are critical to all of our best interests. Protecting these areas means that we, as property owners, are less subject to flooding damages and property loss as a result of an intense storm. Establishing proper drainage along roadways and culverts means less potholes and frost heaves, meaning less money spent maintaining infrastructure and more money invested in improving it. In addition to flood protection, these forested areas, wetlands and streams are part of what gives a town that “classic New England feel” and cannot be treated as disposable. Because I live here, I am invested in the success of Barre. If elected to the Planning Board, I would be able to not only improve the resources we have, but plan for growth, development and a future for Barre that maintains the ideals it was founded upon. Agriculture, shared green spaces, community, equity, and integrity. Barre has the potential to maintain a thriving agricultural and recreational community without losing its character. Our Planning Board would

benefit through my work experience with DPW directors, town engineers, Conservation Commission and Planning Boards throughout the State. It would be my pleasure to serve the town of Barre and plan for a prosperous future.

Ralph Hallowell Rogers, III Candidate Planning Board



My Name is Ralph Hallowell Rogers, III and I am running for the five-year term on the Planning Board. I have lived in Barre most of my life. For the last 20 years, I have also worked in Barre, at Rockwerx, currently as the CEO. I am a Freemason and a lifetime member of Mt. Zion lodge in Barre center. Previously I held positions on the Park and Rec Committee, the Finance Committee, the Chairman of Barre’s Marijuana Bylaw Review Committee and currently, as the Alternate Planning Board Member. Basically, what it comes down to is, I am a Barre boy. I wasn’t really interested in town politics until recently when I saw that Barre was having a hard time getting Marijuana Bylaws passed. So I volunteered to be on the Bylaw Review Committee. While working on this committee, as chairman, I was able to see firsthand how the Planning Board was operating, and frankly, I wasn’t very happy with it.

I believe there are members on the board that aren’t taking the best interest of Barre into consideration. From what I have seen firsthand, instead of helping the people of Barre obtain their goals and help Barre make money, projects get blocked or dragged on and on, instead of worked through with clear steps. I come away from most Planning Board meetings, shaking my head saying, “Wow, we should be better than this.” Instead of just complaining about it, which I have, to the Board of Selectmen and the previous Town Administrator, I decided the best way to make a difference was to join them. To lead by example. This is what I am trying to do. As the alternate, I have been pushing to have the Planning Board meetings televised. The Board of Selectmen meetings and Finance Committee meetings are. Why aren’t the Planning Board meetings? Come to a meeting and you will find out. Do not vote for your friend just because they are your friend. Vote for someone you believe not only cares about the town, but will work hard to make it a great place to live, to raise a family and to start a business. If you did vote for the people on the Planning Board, you should really show up to a few meetings, to see the job those people are doing for our town. Barre can be better than what it is. The Planning Board in Barre can be better than what it is. I can help us get there. I would like the opportunity to do just that and I can with your vote.

In response to the State of Emergency and concerns about COVID-19 and its implications on election administration, the Governor signed a law authorizing the board of selectmen to vote to postpone the local election. At its meeting on April 21, the Barre Board of Selectmen voted to postpone the election to Tuesday, June 23. Polling hours at 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be a new voter registration date, Friday, June 12 from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. as established by the new law. Anyone wishing to register to vote may do so at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com or can call Town Clerk Office for more information at 978-355-2504 extension 5.

Jim C. Souza joins AdCare Hospital

WORCESTER – AdCare Hospital is pleased to welcome Jim C. Souza, of Leicester, as director of facilities. Souza comes to AdCare with vast experience within the facilities arena and a strong working knowledge of OSHA, DEP, DPH and Joint Commission Safety Regulations. Most recently, he was director of engineering and maintenance at The Reservoir Center for Health and Rehabilitation in Marlborough. Souza has also held management positions at Table Talk Pies, Leicester Public Schools and the Stetson School.



An electrician by trade, he enjoys being with his family and friends, as well as spending time in his wood shop building unique items.

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Pair of seniors would have led Quabbin golf

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

BARRE – Girls golf is not a big sport in Massachusetts, but Quabbin Regional High School entered a team into the ranks during the springtime.

Coach Richard Lindsten said he had two talented players that were set to have their senior season in the sport.

Sophie Kiley was set to be a fourth year member of the team while Olivia Fay would have been in her second year.

Lindsten recognized both players as high academic performers.

Last year, the Panthers started the rebuilding process, with only three returning players after graduating several players and having some not return.

Kiley was one of the returners.

The team also started utilizing a new home course at Quail Hollow in Oakham. The team had previously golfed at Dunroamin Country Club of Hardwick, but the course closed down.

While Kiley returned, Fay joined the team along with a few other newcomers.

After just eight matches, Quabbin only had one win, but the players continued to make progress and ended the season with a lot of great improvements.

Kiley participated in the district competition to represent the



Submitted photo

Quabbin golfers (l-r) Hannah Dowd, Olivia Fay, Sydney Smith, Kylie Vessair and Sophie Kiley are all thumbs up at the Bay Path Tournament held last year. Kiley and Fay would have been senior members of the team this year.

Panthers, a goal she would have had for this coming season.

Kiley and Fay were also part of a team that participated in the first-ever Central Massachusetts Girls Golf Tournament. It was held at Bay Path and five members of the

team participated, Lindsten said.

As the team learned it would not be playing this spring due to the closure of school and the lack of spring sports being allowed, Lindsten said players were still being recruited for this season due

to graduated members of last year's team.

"We would have had six to eight, probably," said Lindsten. "A pretty young group. You need six for a match."

Lindsten said it was unfortunate

that the season was canceled, especially because golf courses were opened in mid-May.

"It was frustrating not to have a season for everyone," said Lindsten. "Especially with golf that is now allowed."

Senior athletes being featured

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

The senior features have already started rolling out, but if you have not seen your senior featured, we encouraged you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring's season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.

Quabbin League hoping for July start

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward. Sign-ups should resume soon. The league is hopefully to begin play sometime in early-to-mid-July. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

Adult baseball still hopeful for some type of 2020 season



Under the governor's re-open plan, baseball may be able to return in late June or early July.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

EASTHAMPTON – Baseball leagues have dwindled a bit, limiting choices for collegiate stars, adult standouts from the Tri-County League, and high school players and post-graduates who lost out on American Legion seasons.

While there are no known alternative options for the younger players, there is an emerging look for adult players 25 and above.

At least four leagues have not called it quits on a 2020 season, all with the flexibility to hold their seasons later and even play into the fall.

However, even with governor's re-open plan, it is not fully clear when teams in the leagues will be able to begin play, though many are hopeful it will be sometime this month.

Phase 2, known as "Cautious," is supposed to allow teams to begin practicing. Phase 2 is supposed to start on Monday, June 8. However, each phase has had sub-phases with different activities and businesses opening up each week since the re-open plan

began on Monday, May 18.

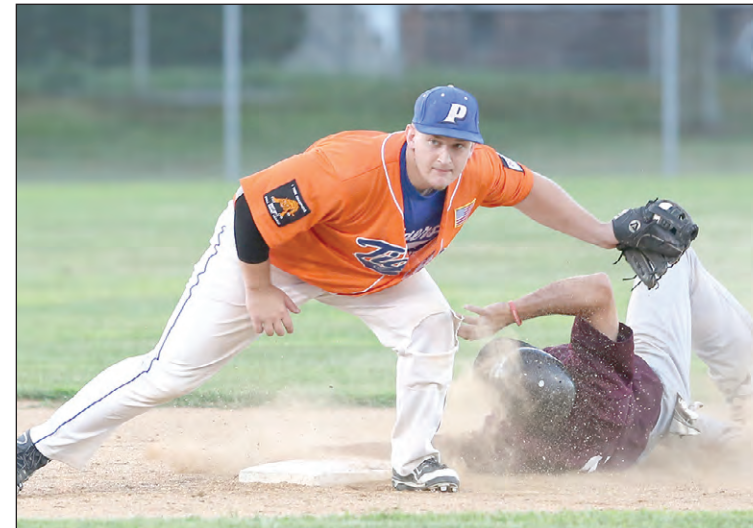
Also, different communities will take different approaches to opening recreational facilities, making the availability of fields also limited.

Adult players, some of whom are Tri-County American or National players, have begun looking at the various leagues for open spots to play, or even to possibly enter teams.

The Western Mass. Wood Bat League is currently an eight-team league that has been in existence for many years. It allows players who are age 25 and up and could be a potential landing spot for several Tri-County players with the higher level of competition and the use of wooden bats.

The other three leagues looking into restarts are "over-30" leagues. All three have existed for a while, though two of the leagues have changed their eligibility for players this year.

The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League has changed to allow players 28 and up, though pitchers may not pitch in the league until they are 30. The Quabbin Valley league has also adopted the same rule.



Parameters and guidelines for baseball to resume at the local level have not been released by the state government.



File photos

With several leagues shutting down play for the season, adults summer leagues may be the only alternative for some players.

Both leagues would have normally started Sunday games the last week of April. Both league are eyeing starts sometime in early July based on how the governor's guidance for Phase 3 dictates a return to actual competition.

The Pioneer Valley Over-30 Baseball League is also still on the table. The Pioneer Valley League is also a wooden

bat league, but normally plays Saturdays and Tuesdays.

The Quabbin League held a meeting Sunday, and is hoping for the July start, and the league's president said it is depending on what fields would allow play and allow it soonest.

None of the leagues have decided how long of a season it would play or what type of modified schedule it would have.

player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308.

Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

PVSSL awaiting guidance, start of season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – After three months of waiting, the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League could be one of the first leagues to have actual games starting early next month.

Diana Kolodziey, runs the PVSSL along with her husband Chris, said earlier this week they are planning to hold a regular season and playoffs, with a slightly modified schedule.

"Based on the governor's re-opening plan," she said. "We are hoping to start the season sometime in early July."

That start will not be without questions, issues, and a lot of guidance from the state level.

Under Gov. Charlie Baker's re-open plan, the four main phases are: Start, Cautious, Vigilant, and the New Normal.

The New Normal, until a vaccine is discovered, will still involve restrictions for people, and could have a whole new meaning for sports. But according to the Baker plan, the second phase would allow for practices to begin at various fields throughout the region.

Games should be able to begin in the third phase, vigilant. However, the guidance and regulations for businesses and activities have yet to be made public by the Baker administration.

Kolodziey they are waiting for that guidance from the governor's office so it can inform teams of how they must conduct themselves.

Restrictions could include social distancing when not directly involved in the game, possible temperature checks, wearing masks when not in the field of play, and disallowing fans from games.

Modifications of these rules could also be possible. In the case of soccer, fans could possibly be allowed if they are on the opposite end of the field and fans are properly distanced from one another, like in the case of people going to the beach, which are now open.

The other major issue the PVSSL will have to watch closely is each town and how the individual communities and cities lift restrictions on field use, allowing games, and gath-

See SUMMER SOCCER, page 8

2020 Bay State Summer Games events cancelled through July

REGION – All Bay State Games events originally scheduled for May 30 through July 26 will be cancelled in consideration for the health and well-being of all athletes, officials, coaches, medical staff, and volunteers. The challenges and uncertainty that COVID-19 has presented prevent the organization from appropriately planning, organizing, and producing events in 30 different sports this year.

This summer, Bay State Games was set to celebrate its 39th annual Summer Games. Due to multiple venue cancellations, the inability to conduct team sport tryouts in June, decisions by sport governing bodies to suspend competitions, medical committee concerns, as well as other factors, the Summer Games will not be able to proceed as scheduled.

"We are committed to the health and well-being of our constituents. It is of the utmost importance to keep everyone safe during these unprecedented times," says Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "While this was a very difficult decision, we believe it is appropriate given the unprecedented impact this pandemic has had on everyone, as well as our ability to produce events this year"

Bay State Games remains hopeful that some events may proceed in the fall if and when it is safe to do so. Sport pages on the Bay State Games website will be updated with

Valley Wheel Baseball aiming for summer baseball

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games

being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted.

The league is hoping for late June, early July start to the season, dependent on the terms of the governor's re-open plan.

The league is built on camaradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Note: The Barre Gazette staff reached out to area churches if they would provide sermons during the Coronavirus pandemic. Any pastor, priest or rabbi wishing to participate may email either barrenews@turley.com or edowner@turley.com.

The Flower Communion

It is this time of year when the myriad of colors of nature, the purple irises, the pink and red roses, multi-colored impatiens, pansies, and petunias, and the leafy greens of lily of the valley that dot our landscapes are a reminder of the Rev. Norbert Capek, the man who brought Unitarianism to his homeland, Czechoslovakia, in the early 1920's. He and his wife, Maya discovered Unitarianism in Orange, New Jersey; Capek had found what he had been looking for; the belief system he found himself leaning toward more and more over many years. He and Maya were moved enough by this unique message to carry it back home to their brethren.

After their church, called the Prague Congregation of Liberal Religious Fellowship, and then eventually the Unitarian Church of Czechoslovakia, was about a year old Norbert noticed a restlessness within his congregation. True to the typical Unitarian church theirs wasn't anything fancy, no robes, no hymns, no ritual, no dogma, just lectures. There was not enough spirituality. Capek, answering the call to bring his Jewish, Catholic, Christian, congregants under one spiritual umbrella, he offered something to show that they had all made the right choice to live within this inclusive faith. He created the Flower Communion, a spiritual ritual of community that has become tradition during this time of year in many Unitarian Universalist churches. With this beautiful response Rev Capek opened up the Unitarians to a form of worshiping from their hearts and he showed them community within their various religious understandings.

The flowers are placed in the communal vase, they are gifts of beauty brought from one person to give to another. Each flower is unique just as each person who gave it and each person who will take the one that suits them.

In the midst of two world wars, Rev. Capek's Flower Communion lived on bringing beauty and soulful community to people during that historically challenging time in our nation's history.

During this unusual and difficult time in our history let us be grateful for the power our Earth still has to push forth beauty and color. Let us be grateful for the innumerable communities of people that have found each other in support.

Blessed be and Amen
Chaplain Lisa Kirk
*First Parish Unitarian
Church of Hubbardston*

Day of Pentecost

"The Power of Pentecost ..."

Scripture Reading: Acts 2 v 1-4, 14 – 21 and 1 Corinthians 12 v 13b - 13

I. Introduction:

On Dec. 26, 2012, my father passed away. I am grateful to have been on vacation with my family in South Africa at the time when it happened. We celebrated Christmas with him, and I was getting ready to perform the wedding for my niece on Dec. 27, the day after he died.

We were all heartbroken, because his was a sudden death. So, it was with heavy hearts that we went to bed that night. Through the grace of God, we woke up and got ourselves ready for the wedding at 2 p.m. It was when we were waiting for my niece to arrive at this outside venue, when we experienced the strongest wind, like a whirlwind surrounding us. Wellington is not a windy place, especially not during the summertime, but we do see the occasional whirlwind.

This felt so different though and I smiled, looking at my mother and telling the congregation, that it must be my father's spirit hovering over us. I did feel my father's presence in a very special way during that hour and in addition, I believe in my heart that it was God showing up, giving us comfort and the most peaceful and joyous wedding ceremony.

We read in the Bible about God's presence in the wind, fire, the clouds, and through many more manifestations. That is how the people of Israel and the disciples experienced God's miraculous presence, important messages and provisions.

II. The Day of Pentecost is about a Promise by Jesus Christ

On the Day of Jesus' Ascension, leading up to the Day of Pentecost, He had a last conversation with His disciples, where He addressed their questions about the Kingdom of God. At the end of their conversation He promised them that "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the world." In the words of Eckard Schnable in a Commentary on Acts, "they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the task of their mission, the same Spirit of God Who in the Old Testament was involved in the creation of the world, Who sustains all of life." They would be His witnesses, that means, they would tell the rest of the world about having been eyewitnesses to His life, his death, His resurrection, and ascension, starting in Jerusalem and in the rest of Judea and go into territories that were not so acceptable to travel through and work with people from different ethnic backgrounds, sharing with them what they saw and experienced. They would be open for new experiences and new relationships with people different from

themselves.

That was not the first time they would be introduced to the Holy Spirit. In John Chapter 20, on Easter Day, Jesus appears to His disciples, and as He commissioned them to go and tell the world about Him, He breathed on them saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." How powerful, how intimate to receive the Holy Spirit directly from Jesus Christ.

The Day of Pentecost is therefore a promise of Jesus' continuous presence in the lives of His disciples as He would leave them and this world to be with God. He would be in them, living in and through them through His Spirit. His breath would give life and power to their message, and they would be transformed, and never be the same again.

II. The Day of Pentecost is about being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit

Luke describes in vivid terms the experience of those 120 Christ followers gathered on the Day of Pentecost, to celebrate the Harvest Festival, 50 days after Passover when Jews came to thank God for the gifts of the grain harvest. They suddenly heard a loud sound from the sky, and the powerful "coming of the Spirit" as translated from the original language, that filled the whole house of believers. Those gathered there, saw the manifestation of tongues of fire resting on each one of them. This was followed by all of them speaking in languages not their own. It appears they were experiencing bursts of the filling of the Holy Spirit, even though they may have received the Spirit previously already, according to Schnable.

This experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit, would transform the lives of these ordinary disciples in ways they did not expect. Peter is an example of a disciple who denied Jesus a few weeks earlier, but now, being filled with the Holy Spirit, stood up courageously and explained the significance of the life, death, resurrection and exaltation of Jesus Christ. As he defended what happened to them to the crowd who thought they were drunk, he quoted the Prophet Joel, who challenged the people of Israel to repent to God, and promised them that they would be restored, and that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all people. Peter's use of this prophecy is an indication that God through the Holy Spirit will be revealed to all people, irrespective of their age, gender and race and class. They all would go through a powerful transformation not from their own doing, but that this Christ, through whom God manifested the incredible miracles and wonders and signs, which they all witnessed, is now alive through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In and through the Holy Spirit they all would live different lives.

III. The Power of Pentecost is to be called and sent by God
In our Corinthians passage

we see Paul outlines for the church in Corinth the results of being filled with the Spirit of God. He talks about different gifts by the Spirit, different kinds of service as manifested by the same Spirit through them, and different kinds of works. He coached and helped them understand how God works through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost needs to be revealed in their lives and through these various gifts and services. As the church in Corinth, they are still growing, and as they grow, they will recognize their special gifts as they feel called and sent by God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit within that reveals the call, in ways they will discover on a deep spiritual level. The call is not the same for everyone, but everyone will receive and experience the manifestations of the work of the Holy Spirit in them, to do what they feel called to do.

IV. Conclusion: What does this mean for us today?

The Day of Pentecost is a day that must bring a powerful transformation within all of us. It is a day to appeal to God to transform us, to allow the Holy Spirit to come alive in all of us, once again.

It is a day to be open for a strong wind, a burst of the work of the Spirit, and see God entering our ordinary lives and change us as individuals, as a church, as communities, as nations. It is a God-given opportunity to have a new experience of God's miraculous power and presence among us; and to ask God, what do You need from me, from us during a time like we are living in? What is my call today, Lord? Has it changed? Where are You leading me? It is a day where we are reminded that we are one, where there is no discrimination among us, that when one suffers, we all are driven by the Holy Spirit to bring about change and transformation. There is enough suffering today. We have this pandemic that has invaded our lives, we have death and dying occurring on mass scale, unemployment and financial issues, health issues, and we have seen this week yet again the painful effects of racism in our society. All of these must invoke in us the call for healing, for provision, for the end of racism and discrimination. We must surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit in us, through us, today and always, because our Lord and Saviour breathed the Spirit upon us Himself. He is our role model of love and peace and justice for all.

We must do the same and feel the strong wind of peace and joy.

May God help us and bless us all as we respond to the power of the Holy Spirit on this Day of Pentecost.

Amen.

Pastor Margaret Keyser
*Barre Congregational Church
Barre*

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

Boyer, Lester
Died May 27, 2020
Funeral services are private
Pillsbury Funeral Home

Mattson, James E.
Died May 10, 2020
Memorial Service at a later date
Pillsbury Funeral Home

Varnot, Roger F.
Died May 17, 2020
Celebration of Life July 18, 2020
Hartman's Herb Farm

Lester Boyer, 85

BARRE — Lester Boyer, 85, of High Street North in Barre, passed peacefully on May 27, 2020 at home with his daughter by his side. He was born in Leicester, on May 21, 1935 the son of Virginia (Watress) and Edmund Boyer. Lester married Beverly (Rice) in 1964 and moved to Barre.

During his time in Barre, he volunteered with many organizations. He served on the Barre Congregational Church committee, he spent time as a Barre Library Trustee and he was a Master Mason at the Mount Zion Lodge. Lester was a life long Boy Scout and loved helping with the local troop and their activities. One of his favorites was the Boy Scout ham and bean supper. He was also involved with the Barre Historical Society. Lester

enjoyed adventures with his daughter, spending time in Maine, his dogs and his daily car rides.

Everyone lovingly referred to him as "Old Guy" and he loved every minute of it. He had a wild sense of humor and an infectious laugh. Lester was a man of character, loyal, dependable and grateful for the life he'd lived.

He is survived by his children, Corice Boyer of Barre, Jeff Boyer of Gray, Maine; his grandchildren, Braeden and Morgan Boyer of Gray, Maine; two nieces, a nephew and some wonderful family and friends.

Funeral services are private for the family. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

James Elmer "Whiskers" Mattson, 74

WHEELWRIGHT – James Elmer Mattson, aka Whiskers, 74, passed away May 10, 2020 after a brief bout of pneumonia.

He was born Nov. 28, 1945 in Braham, Minn. to Florence L. Mattson (McCall) and Elmer A. Mattson.

Whiskers lived in Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa and recently Massachusetts. He graduated from Minnetonka High School in 1964 and completed training at Dunwoody Institute for drafting and electronics.

He worked as a welder (one of the best) for most of his life, with a short stint of truck driving. He had many a story to tell to a listening ear, usually involving some escapade he saw or was a part of. He had been a volunteer fire fighter and had many interests including metal working, wood carving, gemstones and collecting stuff for future inventions or "mon-key business" as he liked to call it. He enjoyed all the sciences, especially chemistry and plant propagation.

Roger Francis Varnot, 81

BARRE - Roger Francis Varnot, 81, of Barre, Massachusetts died peacefully on May 17, 2020 at Quabbin Valley Healthcare. Born July 9, 1938, son of Francis (Frank) Thomas and Lillian Elizabeth (Whippee) Varnot, both of Barre, Massachusetts, he graduated from Barre High School in 1956 and from Worcester Junior College with a degree in mechanical engineering.

As a young man, Roger worked at the Barre Wool Mill before spending several years as a carpenter at Allen's Foundry and later driving as a courier for Waste Management. He worked independently cutting cordwood and crafting furniture. Gardening was a lifelong passion and he brought produce, honey, maple syrup and pies to local farmers markets for several years. Roger was a spirited Patriots and Red Sox fan. He was also an avid sportsman, dedicated to hunting, fishing and the outdoors, where he felt connected to



nature and the woods.

Devoted to his family, he is survived by his wife of 52 years, Martha Varnot; three daughters, Susan Varnot (Paul Gibbons), Heidi Litchfield and Ann Varnot; a sister, Virginia (Ginger) Asel; three grandchildren, Alexandra Holland, Madison Holland and Rylee Litchfield; two great-grandchildren, James Coy Jr. and Lucas Lucia and nephews and nieces of the Asel, Williams, Bruffee and Cranston families. Preceding him in death are his parents, Francis and Lillian Varnot, and his close friend, Terrence Mara.

Donations may be made to Massachusetts Fisheries & Wildlife Division at 341 East St., Belchertown, MA 01007 or a charity of your choice in memory of Roger Varnot.

A service will be held on July 18, 2020 with a celebration of life following at Hartman's Herb Farm.

Public Notices

TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Zoning By-laws, the Town of New Braintree Planning Board will hold a public

hearing on **Monday, June 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.** in the New Braintree Town Hall for the purpose of issuing gravel permits.

This meeting is open to the public and all are invited to attend. Please note

that all safety procedures will be followed in regards to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please remain 6 feet from each other and wear a mask at all times.
6/04, 6/11/2020

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

THE BARRE GAZETTE –
Serving the towns of Barre,
Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree,
North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham
& Rutland since 1834

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, May 24
3:06 p.m. Disturbance – Person(s) Main Street – Area Search Negative
4:56 p.m. Alarm, Commercial Common Street – Building Checked/Secured
5:30 p.m. Threats West Street – Information Given
5:37 p.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Hubbarston Road – Unfounded
6:45 p.m. Harassment Main Street – Investigated
8:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Suspicious Vernon Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party
8:57 p.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Valley Road – Unfounded
10:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Hubbardston Road – No Fire Service Necessary

Tuesday, May 26
11:26 a.m. Suspicious Activity Old Hardwick Road – Officer Advised
4:30 p.m. Alarm – Commercial Allen Drive – Building Checked/Secured
7:14 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent West Street – Officer Spoke to Party

9:02 p.m. Disturbance – Person(s) Exchange Street – Peace Restored
1:27 p.m. Larceny Bentley Road – Officer Advised
1:42 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Unknown – Services Rendered
3:47 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency School Street North – Transported to Hospital
3:57 p.m. Disturbance – Person(s) Summer Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, May 27
11:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Erratic Wheelwright Road – Negative Contact

Thursday, May 28
10:37 a.m. Suspicious Person Elm Street South – Officer Spoke to Party
11:01 a.m. Illegal Dumping Kendall Street – Officer Spoke to Party
5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Valley Road – Vehicle Towed

Friday, May 29
5:30 a.m. Fire, Medical

Emergency Cedar Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal
2:47 p.m. Fraud Varney Lane – Officer Advised
5:08 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Town Farm Road – Negative Contact

Saturday, May 30
6:37 p.m. Larceny Cat Alley – Officer Advised

Sunday, May 31
12:49 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Nichols Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
1:13 a.m. Alarm – Commercial Vernon Avenue – False/Accidental/ Defective
1:16 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Old Coldbrook Road – Referred to Other Agency
1:52 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Sams Way – Confirmed Misdial

SOUTH BARRE

Sunday, May 24
7:08 a.m. Disturbance – Person(s) North Brookfield Road – Officer Advised

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, May 24
7:48 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent East Hill Road – Information Taken

Monday, May 25
1:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued
2:17 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Crawford Road – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, May 26
11:28 a.m. Fire Motor Vehicle Collision Old Turnpike Road – Report Filed
8:58 p.m. Suspicious Activity Farm Pond Road – Negative Contact
11:16 p.m. Suspicious Activity Farm Pond Road – Investigated

Wednesday, May 27
7:26 a.m. Alarm – Commercial Bechan Road – Investigated
4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
Summons: Gurprit Singh, 29, Framingham
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Thursday, May 28
1:42 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent North Brookfield Road – No Action Required

Friday, May 29
11:26 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Unknown – Services Rendered
1:44 p.m. Property Dispute Barre Road – Property Returned

Saturday, May 30
10:57 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Lincoln Road – Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, May 31
1:38 a.m. Alarm – Residential Old Turnpike Road – Building Checked/Secured

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, May 24
11:31 a.m. Fraud Crestview Drive – Officer Spoke to Party
8:58 p.m. 911 – Transfer Main Street – Call Transferred
9:09 p.m. Neighbor Dispute Central Tree Road – Officer Spoke to Party
9:25 p.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Pommogussett Road – Unfounded
9:37 p.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, May 25
1:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Suspicious Madisyn Avenue – Negative Contact
8:10 a.m. Alarm – Commercial Crawford Road – False/Accidental/ Defective Alarm
11:13 a.m. Gunshots Watson Lane – Negative Contact
8:58 p.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Forbes Road – Peace Restored

Tuesday, May 26
12:16 p.m. Fraud Pommogussett Road – Report Filed
12:37 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Pine Plain Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
1:56 p.m. Threats Maple Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party
2:04 p.m. Unattended Death Memorial Drive – Referred to Other Agency
2:35 p.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Skyline Drive – Investigated
3:18 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Rebecca Ann Drive – Ambulance Canceled
4:31 p.m. Trespassing Cheryl Ann Drive – Officer Spoke to Party
5:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Erratic East Hill Road – Area Search Negative
7:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Erratic East Hill Road – Information Given
11:10 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision East County Road – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Parkyr C. Whitenett, 23, Westminster

Wednesday, May 27
11:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
11:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning
11:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
11:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Thursday, May 28
12:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning
12:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Written Warning

OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Stop/ Yield, Fail to

Wednesday, May 27
1:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Suspicious Inwood Road – Negative Contact
12:47 p.m. Suspicious Activity Davis Street – Negative Contact
1:23 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Wachusett Street – Transported to Hospital
3:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident East County Road – Vehicle Towed
4:01 p.m. Larceny Pleasantdale Road – Report Filed
4:10 p.m. Property Damage Maple Avenue – Officer Spoke to Party
7:50 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Central Tree Road – Confirmed Misdial
7:54 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Miles Road – Confirmed Misdial
8:30 p.m. Suspicious Activity Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party
8:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning
9:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Criminal Complaint
9:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning
9:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning
9:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning
9:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning
9:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Criminal Complaint
10:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning
11:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
11:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning
11:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
11:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

8:13 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Main Street – Services Rendered
9:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
9:26 a.m. Fraud Deer Run – Report Filed
5:27 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Ten Rod Road – Confirmed Misdial
6:45 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Wheeler Road – Transported to Hospital
11:05 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Miles Road – Confirmed Misdial

Friday, May 29
4:03 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Winifreds Way – No Action Required
9:01 a.m. Fraud Emerald Road – Report Filed
9:21 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Valley View Circle – Report Filed
12:07 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Turkey Hill Road – Services Rendered
5:17 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Valley View Circle – Confirmed Misdial
7:30 p.m. Disturbance – Person(s) Bushy Lane – Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, May 30
8:41 a.m. Fraud Prescott Street – Officer Advised
9:31 a.m. Fraud Richards Avenue – Officer Advised
10:56 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Turkey Hill Trail – Information Taken
12:59 p.m. Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls Thurston Hill Road – Information Given
6:27 p.m. Fire, Illegal Burn Nancy Drive – Fire Extinguished
6:44 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Miles Road – Confirmed Misdial
8:51 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Miles Road – Confirmed Misdial
10:59 p.m. Gunshots Pommogussett Road – Area Search Negative

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, May 24
12:02 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Gardner Road – Confirmed Misdial
12:12 p.m. Fire – Auto/Car Fire Pitcherville Road – Fire Extinguished
12:47 p.m. Threats Barre Road – Officer Spoke to Party
1:30 p.m. Disturbance – Motor Vehicle Old Boston Turnpike – Negative Contact
3:14 p.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Old Boston Turnpike – Are Search Negative
3:26 p.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Mohawk Drive – Information Given

Monday, May 25
3:59 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent Chippewa – Information Taken

Tuesday, May 26
4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Burnshirt Road – Citation Issued
5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Burnshirt Road – Citation Issued
8:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
8:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued

Wednesday, May 27
8:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Erratic Barre Road – Negative Contact
12:43 p.m. Alarm, Residential Dogwood South Road – Building Checked/Secured
12:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled Gardner Road – Vehicle Towed
2:47 p.m. Breaking and Entering Past Residential Ragged Hill Road – Report Filed
4:22 p.m. Alarm Bank Gardner Road – Building Checked/Secured
6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint
6:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Cesar A. Santiago-Ortiz, 35, Worcester
License Revoked as HTO, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Inspection/Sticker, No
9:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Erratic Burnshirt Road – Negative Contact

Thursday, May 28
11:36 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Williamsville Road – Transported to Hospital
3:31 p.m. 911 Transfer Worcester – Call Transferred
4:36 p.m. Suspicious Person

Adams Road – Information Given
6:26 p.m. Suspicious Person Gardner Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, May 29
5:44 a.m. Suspicious Person Adams Road – Officer Spoke to Party
1:56 p.m. Trespassing George Howard Road – Officer Spoke to Party
11:23 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/ Abandoned/Silent New Templeton Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, May 30
12:01 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Morgan Road – Referred to Other Agency
1:35 a.m. Disturbance – Noise Complaint Kruse Road – Peace Restored
4:31 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Gardner Road – Referred to Other Agency
4:36 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Pitcherville Road – Services Rendered
5:10 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Pitcherville Road – Citation Issued
11:04 p.m. Gunshots Old Boston Turnpike – Area Search Negative

Hardwick Police Log

Monday, May 18
12:29 p.m. Phone – Motor Vehicle Accident North Street – Transferred Call to C7
5:39 p.m. 911 – Fire Alarm Prospect Street – Services Rendered
6:02 p.m. Phone – Disturbance Barre Road – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, May 19
9:18 p.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Upper Church Street – Negative Contact

Wednesday, May 20
8:05 a.m. 911 – Elevator Call/ Alarms Old Petersham Road – Dispatch Handled
8:58 a.m. Initiated – Suspicious Activity Off Prospect Street – Checked/Secured
5:34 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Broad Street – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, May 21
1:57 a.m. 911 – Suspicious Activity Ruggles Hill Road – Services Rendered
5:41 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Chagnon Road – Transported to Hospital
3:27 p.m. Phone – Alarm Bridge Street – Building Checked/Secured
5:41 p.m. Phone – Alarm Barre Road – Building Checked/Secured
8:12 p.m. 911 – Disturbance Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital

Friday, May 22
5:28 p.m. Phone – Complaint Old Greenwich Plains Road – Officer

Handled
6:28 p.m. Phone – Harassment North Road – Officer Handled
9:30 p.m. Initiated – Missing Person Barre Road – Services Rendered
11:44 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
1:54 p.m. Phone – Alarm Church Street – Services Rendered

Saturday, May 23
7:31 a.m. Phone – Fire Alarm Barre Road – Services Rendered
12:28 p.m. Initiated – Assist Private Investigator Main Street – Services Rendered
1:34 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Citation Issued
2:55 p.m. Phone – Complaint Main Street – Spoken To
8:52 p.m. 911 – Complaint Bridge Court – Served in Hand
10:49 p.m. Cellular – Complaint Pine Street – Negative Contact

Sunday, May 24
3:52 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call Sessions Road – Spoken To
4:27 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call Sessions Road – Spoken To
6:25 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency North Road – Transported to Hospital
6:25 p.m. 911 – Hang-up Call North Road – Merge
8:02 p.m. Phone – Fire, Other Hardwick Road – Services Rendered

Monday, May 25
4:08 a.m. Phone – Fire Alarm Schoolhouse Drive – Services

Rendered
6:31 p.m. 911 – Misdial Hardwick Road – No Action Required

Tuesday, May 26
11:31 a.m. Initiated – Harassment Hardwick Road – Services Rendered
1:29 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Investigation Barre Road – Investigated
3:47 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Creamery Road – Transported by Helicopter
10:20 p.m. Phone – Scam Turkey Street – Report Taken

Thursday, May 28
10:21 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Joslyn Road – Report Taken
10:57 a.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Ridge Road – Spoken To
7:18 p.m. 911 – Disturbance Pine Street – Verbal Only
11:04 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Street – Transported to Hospital

Friday, May 29
4:11 p.m. Initiated – Identity Theft Lower Road – Officer Handled
4:51 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road – Citation Issued
5:30 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Citation Issued

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

Sheriff warns residents of recent warrant phone scam

WEST BOYLSTON – Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is warning residents about a recent phone scam in which the caller tells victims they have an arrest warrant issued in their name. In order to avoid going to jail, the caller tells the individual they need to pay a fine. Unlike previous scams which involved claims of missed jury duty, the current scam does not say what the “warrant” is issued for. The scam artist fraudulently uses the Sheriff’s Office name and/ or a phony telephone number. Many calls have originated from the phone num-

ber, 508-635-0166. This line has a misleading recording designed to sound like the Sheriff’s Office. This number is not associated with the Worcester County Sheriff’s Department and is a scam.

In recent days, the sheriff’s office has received numerous reports of this type of phone scam. The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office encourages people to be aware of calls like this and to never give personal or financial information over the phone to anyone whom you didn’t call yourself.

“Our department does not contact residents and demand payment

or ask for credit card information. Today’s scam artists are always trying to stay ahead of the curve, residents need to beware of any unsolicited calls that ask for cash, money card payments, their personal or credit card information,” said the Sheriff. “These callers can sound convincing, will be aggressive and try to intimidate you, even threaten you with jail time. We encourage anyone who gets a suspicious call to just hang up or call authorities first before giving out any type of personal information or money,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis.

Send your stories and photos to
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
22	Base Price \$28.50	Base Price \$29.00	Base Price \$29.50
23	Base Price \$30.50	Base Price \$31.00	Base Price \$31.50
24	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
25	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00	Base Price \$35.50
26	Base Price \$36.50	Base Price \$37.00	Base Price \$37.50
27	Base Price \$38.50	Base Price \$39.00	Base Price \$39.50
28	Base Price \$40.50	Base Price \$41.00	Base Price \$41.50
29	Base Price \$42.50	Base Price \$43.00	Base Price \$43.50
30	Base Price \$44.50	Base Price \$45.00	Base Price \$45.50
31	Base Price \$46.50	Base Price \$47.00	Base Price \$47.50
32	Base Price \$48.50	Base Price \$49.00	Base Price \$49.50
33	Base Price \$50.50	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$51.50
34	Base Price \$52.50	Base Price \$53.00	Base Price \$53.50
35	Base Price \$54.50	Base Price \$55.00	Base Price \$55.50
36	Base Price \$56.50	Base Price \$57.00	Base Price \$57.50
37	Base Price \$58.50	Base Price \$59.00	Base Price \$59.50
38	Base Price \$60.50	Base Price \$61.00	Base Price \$61.50
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Bald eagle numbers soar in 2020

It's nesting season for bald eagles, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) announces it has already documented over 70 active eagle nests throughout Massachusetts this spring. MassWildlife has seen a dramatic uptick in newly documented eagle nests this year and has confirmed nine new nests in Fitchburg, Wenham, Concord, Rutland, Wareham, Medford, Northampton, Hudson and Barnstable. The new Barnstable nest marks the first nest with eggs on Cape Cod in 115 years; the last was in Sandwich in 1905.

As the eagle population continues to grow, new challenges emerge as pairs try to establish new territories. For instance, this spring marked the

first documented case of eagles nesting on Martha's Vineyard. An eagle pair took over an osprey nest and were incubating eggs when the ospreys returned from their wintering grounds. The osprey pair that most likely built the nest harassed the incubating eagle who would flip upside down with its talons in the air in defense. Eventually the eagle cracked the eggs doing this and this historic nesting attempt failed. Two other eagle nests on the mainland have also failed as a result of an intruding eagle invading the territory and killing the chicks in the nest. Although difficult for observers to witness, these events are all signs of a thriving eagle population in Massachusetts. On the upside, more and more people across

the Commonwealth are experiencing the thrill of seeing eagles in their own neighborhoods as these birds continue to expand their range to urban and suburban landscapes. Due to successful conservation measures, the status of the bald eagle recently improved from threatened to special concern on the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act list.

In related news, New Hampshire confirmed a new state record for its oldest bald eagle, a bird that hatched in Massachusetts. This eagle, identified by a gold leg band coded "W84", was photographed this spring in New Hampshire. Banding records indicate this 23-year-old male hatched at the Quabbin Reservoir in Ware in 1997

and it had been recorded nesting in New Hampshire between 2007 and 2014. The previous N.H. record holder was a 19-year-old bird that had also hatched in Massachusetts. It is safe to say that the eagle reintroduction program that MassWildlife conducted in the 1980s has not only reaped benefits in Massachusetts, but throughout New England.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is the state agency responsible for the conservation of all freshwater fish and wildlife in the Commonwealth, including endangered species. MassWildlife restores, protects, and manages land for wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy.



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo by Andrew Vitz
This photo shows a newly documented bald eagle nest in Rutland.

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